

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DONEWBERRY:CEK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (PER HABIB)
NEA - MR VELIOTES
P - MR HABIB
S/S - S. GOLDSMITH

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O 122352Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG, JO, SY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS

1. AT THEIR REQUEST SECRETARY MET MARCH 12 WITH AMBASSADORS
OF LEBANON, EGYPT, JORDAN AND SYRIA. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB
AND NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES PARTICIPATED.
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2. THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT THE MEETING HAD
BEEN REQUESTED FOLLOWING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PUBLIC REMARK
ABOUT QUOTE DEFENSIBLE BORDERS UNQUOTE DURING RABIN VISIT.
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SUBSEQUENT PRESS STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY HAD FULLY CLARIFIED NUANCES OF USG APPROACH
TO NEGOTIATION PROCESS, CONCERN FOR IMPLICATIONS NEVERTHE-

LESS FELT THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD AND NOT JUST IN CONFRONTATION STATES. AMBASSADORS THEREFORE FELT NEED TO POINT OUT SOME ELEMENTS IN PARTICULAR THAT WILL NEED TO BE EMPHASIZED AS WE MOVE AHEAD.

3. PRINCIPAL ARAB POINTS WERE: (1) USG SHOULD BE EQUALLY AS CONCERNED WITH ARAB SECURITY AS WITH ISRAEL'S SECURITY; (2) IN ORDER TO STEER AROUND DEBATE OVER LEGAL BORDERS AS DISTINCT FROM SECURE BORDERS, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF WE ALL AGREED TO TALK IN TERMS OF QUOTE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS UNQUOTE. SECRETARY AGREED THAT LATTER WOULD BE MORE APPRO-

PRIATE TERM; (3) RATHER THAN FIRST TACKLING DETAILS IMPLICIT IN FINAL COMMITMENT TO PEACE, ALL PARTIES SHOULD AGREE THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT NEGOTIATING THE WHOLE PACKAGE.

4. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IN LISTING QUOTE CORE ELEMENTS UNQUOTE HAD NO PARTICULAR PRIORITY IN MIND AND THAT THE PRESIDENT TOO HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE ENTIRE PACKAGE HAS TO BE NEGOTIATED. SECRETARY UNDERLINED CENTRAL THRUST OF US POLICY AS ARTICULATED IN PASSAGE FROM PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE (MARCH 9 WIRELESS FILE.)

5. AMBASSADORS WERE CLEARLY LOOKING FOR FURTHER BRIEFING ON RABIN VISIT. SECRETARY REVIEWED POINTS COVERED IN SEC STATE 53875 AND TOLD THE AMBASSADORS THERE WAS NOTHING MORE THAT HE COULD SAY TO THEM NOW BUT ADDED THAT PERHAPS BY THE TIME THE ARAB HEADS OF STATE BEGAN THEIR VISITS HERE, HE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE TO SAY.
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6. AMBASSADORS' EVOKING OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION IMPLIES THEY WERE LOOKING TO USG TO HELP PALESTINIANS COME TO DECISION ON ACCEPTING RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. SECRETARY'S RESPONSE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE EXPECT ARAB STATES TO HELP IN THIS REGARD. SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD APPRECIATE ARAB GOVERNMENTS GIVING US A CLEARER DEFINITION AS TO WHAT THEY SEE AS A REASONABLE AND PRACTICAL WAY OF DEALING WITH PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

7. SECRETARY RECALLED THAT ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP HE FOUND SHARP DIFFERENCES AMONG ARAB LEADERS ON KEY ISSUE OF PALESTINIANS. HE ASKED AMBASSADORS TO LET US KNOW OF ANY NEW SIGNS OF DEVELOPING ARAB CONSENSUS IN ADVANCE OF VISITS HERE BY ARAB LEADERS BEGINNING NEXT MONTH.

8. THE UNDERLYING THEME OF THE ARABS' PRESENTATION WAS A REQUEST THAT WE TAKE SPECIAL CARE TO INCORPORATE THE PRINCIPLE OF QUOTE MUTUALITY UNQUOTE IN DISCUSSIONS OF

NEGOTIATION QUESTIONS AND TO AVOID DRAWING ON ISRAELI
TERMINOLOGY IN ARTICULATING US POSITIONS.

9. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED UNDER-
STANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR WHAT SECRETARY HAD SAID. BE-
FORE LEAVING AMBASSADORS DISCUSSED PROPOSED PRESS LINE
AND AGREED TO AVOID STATEMENTS THAT MIGHT STIMULATE CON-
TROVERSIAL MEDIA REACTION. AMBASSADORS' REMARKS TO PRESS
REPORTED SEPTTEL.

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